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INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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ACTION EAP-83

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TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PREL, PGOV, PHUM, SOCI, CH
SUBJECT: TFCNO: STREP NO. 68, JUNE 30, 1996 LOCAL

1. SUMMARY: THE SEVENTH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS CONVENED JUNE 29 WITH ITS CHAIRMAN, WAN LI, DELIVERING A VERY MODERATE SPEECH IN CONTRAST TO THE TOUGH AND UNCOMPROMISING SPEECH THE DAY BEFORE BY NEW GENERAL SECRETARY JIANG ZEMIN.

2. SHANGHAI AUTHORITIES DEMANDED CONGEN SHANGHAI REMOVE THE TEXT OF PRESIDENT BUSH'S SPEECH ON CHINA AND VOA COMMENTARY FROM THE CONSULATE'S DISPLAY CASE BECAUSE IT "OFFENDS THE FEELINGS OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE". EMBASSY BEIJING ADVISED SHANGHAI TO KEEP THE DISPLAY AND TO SAY THAT CHINESE AUTHORITIES' COMMENT ON THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH "OFFEND THE FEELINGS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE."

IN BEIJING, THE MFA DELIVERED OFFICIAL COMPLAINTS TO THE PAO ON THE "INACCURATE REPORTS" CARRIED IN THE EMBASSY'S WIRELESS BULLETIN. THE PAO ASSERTED THAT THE STORIES WERE ACCURATE. THE LARGO AMERICAN JOINT VENTURE SHERATON HOTEL WAS ORDERED TO CEASE RECEPTION OF CNN TRANSMISSIONS. OTHER HOTELS, HOWEVER, HAVE NOT YET HAD THEIR CNN RECEPTION STOPPED.

3. PRESIDENT YANG GUANGXUN AND PREMIER LI PENG MET WITH LOWER-LEVEL VISITING FOREIGN OFFICIALS. PREMIER

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LI SAID THE VISITS OF THE FOREIGN GUESTS DEMONSTRATED SUPPORT FOR CHINA. THE MFA SPOKESPERSON SAID THE U.S. VIOLATES CHINESE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW BY GIVING REFUGEE TO FANG LIZHI. THE SPOKESPERSON ALSO SAID THE JUNE 27 EC STATEMENT "JEOPARDIZES BILATERAL RELATIONS".

4. VICE PREMIER LU XUEQIAN TOLD A VISITING AMERICAN THAT THE PEACE CORPS PROGRAM WAS ONLY POSTPONED AND WAS NOT CANCELLED. VISA APPLICATIONS AT THE EMBASSY ARE AGAIN NEAR NORMAL FOLLOWING THE GOVERNMENT'S REQUIREMENT FOR ITS NATIONALS TO APPLY FOR A NEW TYPE OF EXIT PERMIT. THE MARTIAL LAW FORCES HELD A SINGING CONCERT IN HONOR OF THE 58TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY. THE PHILIPPINES WILL LIFT ITS TRAVEL ADVISORY ON JULY 1, ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL PRESS. THE PAO REPORTS SOME CONTACTS WHO WISH CONTINUED RELATIONS WITH THE EMBASSY WILL, FOR NOW, TALK WITH THE LOCAL STAFF AND NOT WITH AMERICAN OFFICERS. FOREIGN MINISTER QIAN HOSTED 80 DIPLOMATS, MOSTLY FROM THE THIRD WORLD AND COMMUNIST BLOCK NATIONS, AT A WATERMELON FESTIVAL.
END SUMMARY.

NPCC CONVENES, WAN LI DELIVERS MAJOR SPEECH

5. JUNE 29 EVENING NEWS AND JUNE 30 PRINT MEDIA GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO THE OPENING SESSION OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE SEVENTH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS STANDING COMMITTEE. 133 OF THE 152 MEMBERS ATTENDED THE OPENING MEETING OVER WHICH NPCC CHAIRMAN WAN LI PRESIDED. THE STANDING COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER AND IS EXPECTED TO APPROVE THE DECISIONS REACHED BY THE FOURTH PLUMON OF THE THIRTEENTH PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE. IT WILL CONSIDER THE STATE COUNCIL'S NEW DRAFT LAW PLACING GREATER RESTRICTIONS ON RALLIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS, AND WILL MAKE IT PUBLIC FOR NATIONAL CONSIDERATION. ON OTHER ISSUES, THE STANDING COMMITTEE WILL RECEIVE REPORTS ON GOVERNMENT ACTIONS IN CRUSHING THE DEMONSTRATIONS; WAN LI'S REPORT ON HIS RECENT TRIP TO CANADA AND THE U.S.; PARTICIPATION IN THE 81ST INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION MEETING; AND WILL DECIDE PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS AND DISMISSEALS.

6. THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE FIRST DAY'S MEETING WAS A SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE CHAIRMAN, WAN LI. IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE TOUGH AND UNCOMPROMISING TONE TOWARDS STUDENT LEADERS AND DEMONSTRATORS SET THE DAY BEFORE BY THE NEW GENERAL SECRETARY JIANG ZEMIN, WAN LI'S SPEECH WAS VERY MODERATE. HE SAID THAT EVERYONE IN CHINA "MUST BE COGNIZANT THAT STABILITY IS IN CHINA'S HIGHEST INTEREST. WE MUST STRENGTHEN THE EDUCATION OF SOCIAL DEMOCRACY AND THE LEGAL SYSTEM AMONG ALL NATIONALITIES IN CHINA. WE MUST INCREASE AND STRENGTHEN THE PEOPLE'S SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CONSCIOUSNESS AND LEGAL SYSTEM CONCEPTS. PEOPLE MUST CONSCIOUSLY EXERCISE THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL AND DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS, AND FULFILL THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL DUTIES." WAN LI CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT IN "EXERCISING FREEDOMS AND RIGHTS, THE PEOPLE MUST NOT HARM THE NATION OR SOCIETY, THE INTERESTS OF THE WHOLE, AND THE LEGAL FREEDOMS AND RIGHTS OF OTHER PEOPLE."

7. IN A CAREFULLY CRAFTED SPEECH, WAN LI EXPRESSED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE LEADERSHIP TO END THE "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY REBELLION". OTHER PARTS OF HIS SPEECH WERE CONCILIATORY AND APPEARED TO REFLECT A DESIRE TO PLACE THE MASSACRE AND THE EVENTS OF JUNE 3-4 BEHIND AND FOCUS ON THE WORK THAT LIES

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AHEAD AND THE NEED FOR UNITY IN MEETING FUTURE
CHALLENGES.

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U.S. DISPLAY CASE IN SHANGHAI DRAWS CRITICISM

8. CONSULATE GENERAL SHANGHAI REPORTS THAT SHANGHAI FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GAO SEN DEMANDED THAT CONSUL GENERAL SYLVESTER REMOVE THE "DISTORTIONS AND PROPAGANDA" FROM THE CONSULATE'S OUTDOOR DISPLAY CASE BECAUSE IT "OFFENDS THE FEELINGS OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE." EMBASSY BEIJING HAS ADVISED CONGEN SHANGHAI NOT TO REMOVE PRESIDENT BUSH'S JUNE 6 SPEECH, THE VOA COMMENTARY OR ANY OTHER MATERIAL FROM THE DISPLAY CASE BECAUSE GAO'S COMMENTS ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT "OFFENDS THE FEELINGS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE."

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CHINESE COMPLAIN TO EMBASSY ABOUT WIRELESS FILE

9. PAO REPORTS THAT HE WAS CALLED IN BY THE MFA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT ON JUNE 30 TO HEAR AN OFFICIAL CHINESE COMPLAINT THAT THE USIS WIRELESS BULLETIN HAD BEEN CARRYING INACCURATE STATEMENTS ABOUT THE "CHINESE QUELLING OF THE COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY REBELLION" WHICH HURT "THE FEELINGS OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE." THE PAO DENIED THAT THE USIS BULLETIN WAS INACCURATE AND STRESSED THE NEED TO INFORM KEY MINISTRIES AND OTHERS IN BEIJING OF THE DEPTH OF FEELING AMONG AMERICANS OVER RECENT EVENTS IN CHINA. THIS WAS AN APPROPRIATE FUNCTION OF THE EMBASSY'S USIS OFFICE.

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CHINESE CUTS OFF RECEPTION OF CNN TRANSMISSIONS

10. THE EMBASSY WAS INFORMED BY OFFICIALS AT THE AMERICAN JOINT VENTURE GREAT WALL SHERATON HOTEL THAT THE KOTEL HAD BEEN FORCED TO STOP RECEPTION OF CNN TRANSMISSIONS THROUGH ITS TELEVISION RECEIVE-ONLY ANTENNA DISH AT 1130 AM ON JUNE 30. THIS ACTION WAS THE RESULT OF AN ORDER GIVEN BY THE SENIOR CHINESE PARTNER OF THE JOINT VENTURE ENTERPRISE WHO SAID THE ORDER CAME "FROM HIGHER UP." IT APPEARS THAT OTHER HOTELS, FOR NOW, ARE STILL AIRING CNN.

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SENIOR LEADERS MEET VISITING DELEGATIONS

11. IN AN EFFORT TO GET AS MUCH MILEAGE AS POSSIBLE FROM THE FEW OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS VISITING CHINA, ON JUNE 29 PRESIDENT YANG SHANGKUM MET WITH A BOLIVIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION AND PREMIER LI PENG MET WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE. THE JUNE 29 EVENING NEWS AND JUNE 30 PRINT MEDIA REPORTED THE CHINESE LEADERS CONVEYING THE PARTY LINE ON NON-INTERFERENCE IN CHINESE AFFAIRS. PREMIER LI PENG WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE VISITS DEMONSTRATED "SUPPORT FOR CHINA".

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FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMENTS ON FANG LIZHI

12. UPDATING OUR PREVIOUS SITREP, THE JUNE 30 PEOPLE'S DAILY REPORTED THE COMMENTS MADE BY THE MFA SPOKESPERSON JUNE 29 THAT THE SHELTERING OF FANG LIZHI AND LI SHUXIAN BY THE U.S. EMBASSY CONSTITUTES AN ENCROACHMENT ON CHINA'S SOVEREIGNTY, AND VIOLATES CHINESE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW.

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FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMENTS ON EC STATEMENT

13. ALSO UPDATING OUR PREVIOUS SITREP, THE JUNE 30 ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CHINA DAILY REPORTED THE MFA

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SPOKESPERSON ON JUNE 29 EXPRESSED DEEP REGRET OVER THE JUNE 27 EC STATEMENT ON CHINA AND SAID THAT "SUCH RASHLY ISSUED STATEMENTS...JEOPARDIZE BILATERAL RELATIONS."

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CHINESE EMPHASIZE PEACE CORPS PROGRAM IS ONLY POSTPONED, NOT CANCELLED

14. THE JUNE 30 OVERSEAS EDITION OF THE PEOPLE'S DAILY REPORTED THAT VICE PREMIER WU ZUEQIAN MET WITH DANIEL WONG, FORMER MAYOR OF CERRITOS, CALIFORNIA ON JUNE 29. WU EMPHASIZED TO THE VISITING AMERICAN THAT THE PEACE CORPS PROGRAM WAS ONLY POSTPONED AND WAS NOT CANCELLED.

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VISA APPLICATIONS NEAR NORMAL

15. THE NUMBER OF VISA APPLICATIONS AT THE EMBASSY ON JUNE 30 RETURNED TO NEAR NORMAL FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE GOVERNMENT NEARLY TWO WEEKS AGO BEGAN REQUIRING THAT ITS NATIONALS OBTAIN NEW EXIT PERMITS BEFORE THEY APPLY FOR VISAS AT FOREIGN EMBASSIES. THE EMBASSY RECEIVED 130 APPLICATIONS AND AN ADDITIONAL 20 APPLICANTS WERE ASKED TO APPLY NEXT WEEK.

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MARTIAL LAW TROOPS HOLD SINGING CONCERT

16. IN HONOR OF THE 68TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, WHICH IS OFFICIALLY CELEBRATED ON JULY 1, THE MARTIAL LAW FORCES HELD A SINGING CONCERT INVOLVING ALL BRANCHES OF THE MILITARY SERVICE ON JUNE 29. PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY JIANG ZEMIN, PRESIDENT YANG SHANGKUM, PREMIER LI PENG, NPC CHAIRMAN VAN LI, QIAO SHI, YAO YILIN, SONG PING, LI RUIHUAN, WANG ZHEN AND OTHER SENIOR LEADERS ATTENDED.

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PHILIPPINES LIFTS TRAVEL ADVISORY

17. XINHUA CHINA NEWS SERVICE REPORTED JUNE 29 THAT THE PHILIPPINES WILL LIFT ITS TRAVEL ADVISORY ON CHINA EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1989.

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DAXING WATERMELON FESTIVAL

18. FOREIGN MINISTER QIAN QIYI HOSTED OVER 80 DIPLOMATS ON AN EXCURSION TO THE DAXING WATERMELON FESTIVAL TO OBSERVE THIS YEAR'S BUMPER CROP. THE DIPLOMATS WERE MOSTLY FROM THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES AND THE EASTERN BLOC STATES INCLUDING THE SOVIET UNION. FEW, IF ANY, WESTERN EUROPEANS ATTENDED. THE U.S. EMBASSY SENT ITS S&T COUNSELOR. THE FOREIGN MINISTER DELIVERED THE PARTY LINE DURING BRIEF COMMENTS TO THE GROUP.

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CONTACTS

19. EMBASSY PAO REPORTS THAT A PRC TELEVISION CREW WHICH RECENTLY RETURNED FROM FILMING IN THE U.S. ON A USIS SUBSIDIZED TRIP, TOLD USIS BEIJING THAT IT LOOKED FORWARD TO CONTINUED CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY BUT, FOR THE TIME BEING, ONLY WITH THE CHINESE NATIONALS ON THE STAFF, NOT WITH THE AMERICAN OFFICERS.

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